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THE CAPE LIBRARIAN

DIE KAAPSE BIBLIOTEKARIS

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AANWINSLYS) April 1960.
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REDAKSIONEEL

Daar was aanvraag van ons Streekbibliotekarisse (anderkant die Hexrivierberge!) dat ons indien moontlik n reeks artikels moet plaas, waarin ons vir hulle die doel en die metode van spellesing verduidelik. Mnr. Laurie van der Merwe, Streekorganiseerder van die N.T.O. in Kaapland, het ingewillig, en in hierdie uitgawe verskyn die eerste artikel. Ons sal bly wees indien alle bibliotekarisse en streekbibliotekarisse kan toesien dat hierdie artikels ook in die hande van die biblioteekkomitee kom. Die skrywer van die artikels is gevra om die hele prosedure so duidelik moontlik te stel, maar indien daar nog van ons biblioteke is wat die hele interessante speletjie nie mooi verstaan nie -- ons sal met die grootste graagte vrae in hierdie verband beantwoord.

In die streke waar N.T.O. nog nie kon kom met die spellesings nie, hoop ons om binnekort n draai te maak. U moet asseblief maar geduld hê met hierdie saak, want soos u kan besef, doen hierdie mense dit ook maar net saans en sommige streke lê -- amper sê ek heerlik, ver van die Kaap af. Dat daar nog by u uitgekom sal word, is baie seker. Hou moed.

... ...

Ons wil Mnr. Friis, Direkteur van Biblioteekdienste, gelukwens met die „verhoging" wat hy gekry het. Mnr. Friis is gekies as Voorsitter van die aksiekomitee wat sal ingaan op die moontlikheid en die doel van n Stigting ter bevordering van die Suid-Afrikaanse Lektuur. Daar is allerweë belangstelling vir hierdie groot nuwe taak wat die Biblioteekdiens geïnisieer het -- die verbetering van die gehalte van dit wat u te lees kry. Alhoewel die huidige komitee los van die biblioteekdiens staan en as sodanig met sy werk sal voortgaan, bly dit nog altyd die Biblioteekdiens se baba. Ons wens hierdie komitee alles van die beste toe. Daar kan niks anders as iets goeds uit idealisme gebore word nie.

DIE REDAKTEUR.

HOE OM N SPELLEESVERENIGING TE STIG

* Laurie van der Merwe

DIE SPELLEESDIENS VAN DIE PROVINSIALE BIBLIOTEKE

In samewerking met die Wes-Kaapse Streek van die N.T.O. het die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens in November 1959 n nuwe spéllesingskema in werking gestel wat sekerlik enig van sy soort is in die biblioteekwese. Volgens hierdie skema word daar be-oog om gereeld elke drie of vier maande in elke biblioteek wat voldoen aan die vereistes van die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens n ingestudeerde spellesing te gee met beroepspelers in diens van en georganiseer deur die N.T.O.

Die hoofdoel is om elke biblioteek daartoe aan te wakker om sy eie spelleesvereniging te stig wat elke maand n spellesing in hulle eie biblioteek sal hou. Die besoeke en praktiese hulp van die N.T.O. dien as voorbeeld van hoe n spellesing aangepak moet word en terselfdertyd as prikkel om belangstelling te wek en gaande te hou.

As gevolg van hierdie samewerking met die N.T.O., kry Streekbibliotekarisse(esse) ook die opleiding en ervaring om in hulle eie streke te help om spelleesverenigings te stig en aan die gang te hou.

Die biblioteekdiens is reeds besig met die aankoop van volledige stelle van soveel toneelstukke as moontlik sodat genoeg eksemplare van elke stuk beskikbaar is. As n spelleesvereniging dus besluit op n besondere stuk, bestel hulle die volledige stel deur hulle plaaslike biblioteek.

Die biblioteekdiens het alreeds n plate-afdeling, n filmafdeling en n afdeling vir die uitleen van kunsafdrukke. Nou bied hy ook n spelleesdiens wat na die eerste eksperiment van 12 N.T.O.-lesings van J.P. Sartre se NO EXIT alreeds n geweldige sukses is, en dit lyk of n spelleesvereniging n gereelde instelling gaan word in n groot aantal biblioteke.

Die biblioteek wat die voortou geneem het is dié van Malmesbury waar alreeds 5 spellesings gegee is nadat n groep intekenare as gaste van die N.T.O. n toneelopvoering in die Hofmeyr-teater bygewoon het. Soortgelyke verenigings bestaan lank reeds in Knysna en Swellendam en nuwes word byna weekliks gestig, tussen die jongstes is dié van Gordonsbaai en Franschhoek.

Intussen was die N.T.O. gedurende April en Mei orals in die Boland met n tweede reeks lesings, dié keer van die Afrikaanse vertaling uit die Frans: MAG EK SAAMSPEEL? van Marcel Achard. Na die somber en spannende NO EXIT is daar besluit op n baie ligte stuk om te dien as voorbeeld van die verskei-

* *Mnr. Laurie van der Merwe is die Streekbestuurder van die Nasionale Toneel-Organisasie in Wes-Kaapland.*

denheid van stukke wat in die vorm van n spellesing kan aangebied word. MAG EK SAAMSPEEL? word in Junie opgevolg deur MISS JULIE van Auguste Strindberg, n sielkundige drama van die ondergang van n jong meisie uit n baie hoë stand. Daar word ook beplan dat die N.T.O. in Julie n reeks van 20 lesings in Engels in die Oostelike Provinsie gee, en n vierde reeks in Afrikaans in die Noordelike Kaap gedurende Oktober en November.

WAT IS N INGESTUDEERDE SPELLESING?

Gewoonlik word met n spellesing bedoel, die blote lees van n toneelstuk deur n groep, waarvan elkeen n rol lees. Dit is gewoonlik hulle eerste kennismaking met die stuk en hulle het nie kans om hulle rolle eers by die huis n bietjie deur te gaan en n bietjie te werk aan die vertolking van n karakter nie. Hulle lees so te sê uit die vuis, steek vas, verloor die betekenis van wat hulle sê, weet nie vooraf wat kom nie, waar om kwaad te wees, waar om te fluister, waar die dramatiese klimakse kom en waar net „gesels" word nie. M.a.w. hulle lees die stuk vir die eerste keer en dié wat dit nie ken nie tas in die donker. So n lesing kan vir enigeen wat daarna luister n dodelike verveling wees.

Daarom die idee van *ingestudeerde* spellesings, d.w.s. daar word vooraf 3 of 4 repetisies van die stuk gehou en dié wat daaraan deelneem, lees hulle rolle een of twee keer deur by die huis tussen repetisies, voordat die eintlike „lesing" voor n gehoor plaasvind.

REPETISIES:

Iemand wat al n bietjie met toneelopvoerings te doen gehad het behoort die repetisies waar te neem en saam met die lesers n paar bewegings uit te werk, sodat die „karakters" nie net daar staan of sit met n boek in die hand nie. Dit word vreeslik vervelig. Daar word m.a.w. eintlik „gespeel", maar met die boek in die hand. Die spelers kom op en gaan af, loop, sit, ens., net soos by n gewone opvoering, m.a.w. daar word so na as moontlik aan volle *vertolking* van die stuk gegee, maar alles word *gelees*.

Twee of drie aande of namiddae word op dié wyse bestee om die stuk te repeteer, sodat die lesers, of spelers, vertroud is met hulle rolle. Op die derde of vierde aand „lees" hulle dan die stuk vir n gehoor.

GROOTTE VAN DIE GEHOOR:

n Gehoor van 20 of 30 mense is meer as genoeg vir n spellesing. n Groot gehoor van n paar honderd mense is eintlik heeltemal ongewens, want dit bederf die intieme en informele atmosfeer wat verlang word. n Kennisgewing in die biblioteek en privaat uitnodigings aan vriende en belangstellendes is gewoonlik genoeg om n groot genoeg gehoor bymekaar te kry. n Koppie tee

of koffie daarna vir spelers en gehoor help om die regte gesellige en informele atmosfeer te skep.

BESPREKING VAN DIE STUK:

Nadat n stuk vir n gehoor gelees is, behoort daar altyd onmiddellik daarna n bespreking te volg waaraan beide spelers en gehoor deelneem, maar hoe meer informeel, hoe beter - n los en vry wisseling van gedagtes oor die stuk, die karakters, ens., met voorstelle vir die volgende stuk, ensomeer.

KEUSE VAN STUK:

Volgens die aard van die stuk sal party meer bespreking uitlok as ander, maar die doel behoort te wees om juis toe té spits op dié soort stuk wat wel n vrugbare bespreking aan die gang kan sit. Al sou n stuk soms n hewige argument uitlok, is dit alles ten goede om ook die „breinspiere" n bietjie oefening te gee.

Die stukke wat gekies word, moet nie te lank wees nie, sodat daar tyd oorbly vir bespreking en n koppie tee, maar dit beteken nie dat net eenbedrywe gedoen moet word nie. n Vollengte stuk kan maklik gesny word, sodat net die kern-tonele gelees word. Die „storie" van dié dele wat weggelaat word, word dan kortliks opgesom en vertel.

VERTALINGS:

Omdat daar in Afrikaans n tekort aan goeie toneelstukke is, kan vertalings baie help, en veral vertalings wat deur die spelleesgroep self onderneem word. Dit is nie n geweldige taak om n eenbedryf uit die Engels te vertaal nie, en dit is weer n geleentheid vir iemand wat knap is in tale, of vir n groep van drie of vier wat kan saamwerk. Nog n metode is dat elke leser sy eie rol vertaal. Gedurende die eerste repetisie word die stuk „aanmekaargesit" en almal help mekaar waar daar haakplekke is.

KOSTUUMS, REKWISITE, MEUBELS, ENS.

Hoewel n stukkie kostuum hier en daar, n rewolwer, n sambreel of wat ook al ekstra effek kan verleen, moet dit nooit die gedagte wees om n spellesing te oorlaai met al die bykomende dinge van n volle opvoering nie. Hoe minder hoe beter, anders word dit n geweldige onderneming om n hele massa verhoogbenodigdhede elke keer bymekaar te maak. Dit is veel beter om dié dinge te mimeer sonder om die werklike voorwerpe te gebruik. Wat meubels betref is n paar stoele heeltemal voldoende. Twee stoele langs mekaar word n rusbank, en al wat nodig is, is om vooraf kortliks aan die gehoor te verduidelik watter soort kamer of toneeltjie dit is, en waar daar n venster is of n vuur-

herd of n deur. Ons het almal genoeg verbeelding om te aanvaar dat daar n deur is waar daar in werklikheid net n wit muur is, en as iemand voorgee dat hy deur n venster kyk waar daar geen venster is nie, is ons heeltemal bereid om dit te aanvaar. Laat die gehoor dus ook kans kry om hulle verbeelding te gebruik.
In die volgende artikel gesels ons oor die stigting en organisasie van n spelleesgroep.

*** *** ***

CARNEGIE MEDAL.

The British Library Association awards the CARNEGIE MEDAL annually for an outstanding book for children published the preceding year by a British subject domiciled in the United Kingdom.

The prize for the year 1959 went to Rosemary Sutcliff for her book "The Lantern Bearers". It was published by the Oxford University Press. A review of the book appeared in the March 1960 issue of the Cape Librarian and copies will be found in all the regions.

Other titles in stock by Rosemary Sutcliff are:

The Chronicles of Robin Hood	.....	J 398.22
The Eagle of the Ninth	.....	J Fiction
Outcast	.....	J Fiction
The Queen Elizabeth Story	.....	J Fiction
The Shield Ring	.....	J Fiction
The Silver Branch	.....	J Fiction
Simon	.....	J Fiction
Warrior Scarlett	.....	J Fiction

All prize winners of this medal can be found in the booklet "The Library Association Carnegie Medal", which was published by the Juvenile Department in 1959.

DIE SPELLEESGROEP BESOEK CITRUSDAL EN CLANWILLIAM

A.H. de Vries

Vrydag en Saterdag, 6 en 7 Mei, was nou maklik die lekkerste twee dae wat hierdie bulletjie al gehad het, miskien met uitsondering van die naweek toe ons met die N.T.O.-spellesers en Sartre se „helse" NO EXIT tot onder in Knysna getoer het. Maar hierdie keer was daar nie verruklike natuurtonele nie -- dit wil sê vir die mense wat nie die Karoo ken nie -- en daar was ook geen swemmery nie. Daar was net lekker mense en lekker spelery voor die gehore van Citrusdal en Clanwilliam.

Laasgenoemde, as u mooi onthou, is die plek waar die lieflike Leipoldt-Nortier biblioteek staan.

Die stuk se naam was MAG EK SAAMSPEEL? deur Marcel Archard, n Fransman daar uit die land van die baie regerings. As hy maar kon sien hoe die mense sy woordspelings en sy goedige spot met die liefde geniet het, sou hy sekerlik die Franse Monmatre vir die Suid-Afrikaanse Karoo verruil het. Maar natuurlik kon die ou weens onvoordiene omstandighede nie teenwoordig wees nie -- die gevolg was dat ek maar die motor moes bestuur!

Die mense het gelag, geskater, geglimlag, gebloos (die Franse se manier van aanlê by n meisie verskil nogal van die Afrikaanse) en lekker gesels. Op Clanwilliam het een persoon gesê as ons weer met dieselfde stuk sou kom, sou hy weer in die gehoor wees. Hoe vat julle daardie pruimtwak!

Ons het natuurlik meevallertjies ook gehad. Byvoorbeeld voor die hotel op Citrusdal het ons geen goeie woord vir die Administrasie se voertuie gehad nie. Daar is gestoot, gedruk en tweetandvloekies afgebyt, maar die Chev. het geweier om een tree verder te loop *sonder petrol*. Toe dit agtergekom is, was die voertuie skoon van alle blaam, maar die persoon in diens van die Administrasie, wat agter die wiel gesit het, was slegter as sleg! Hy het dit met meegevoel vir homself gedra.

Dan is daar nog die kwessie van die winkelfiets, maar laat ons daaroor swyg. Die fiets wou nie loop nie, met die gevolg dat ons nie na die dam op Clanwilliam kon gaan kyk nie!

Maar lekkerste van alles was die gasvryheid van die mense. Daardie tannie op Citrusdal het sonder om een ooglid te verroer my derde koppie tee volgeskink. By die vierde het sy nog niks gesê nie, maar ek kon sien sy blameer die Administrasie! Toe Wilhelm Grütter egter ook also doen, het sy nie geweet wie om te blameer nie, en aangeneem dat, toe ons vir haar gesê het die tee smaak lekker, ons nie gejok het nie.

Daar is gesels oor hierdie skema. Ek is seker hier gaan binnekort aanvrae kom vir dramas. Daar is bespreek en nogmaals bespreek. Bespreek totdat almal seker was dat daar op hul dorp ook so-iets gedoen kan word.

Van een ding was ons seker toe ons Sondagoggend die pad terug Kaap toe gevat het -- ons het die mense aan die dink gesit aan iets waaroor hulle nooit gedink het nie. En waarom nie? Spellesing lê, op die keper beskou, baie na aan die oorsprong van die drama.

Ons plattelandse mense is honger vir hierdie soort ding. En weet u wat sê hulle konsekwent? Hulle sê hulle kan in die laaste tyd nie meer toneel toe gaan nie, want die goed wat opgevoer word -- die kindjie wat weg is en die leë arms is nou darem verduiwels te swak om jou geld voor te mors.

Ek het dan altyd gedog, so is my ook vertel, ons mense op die platteland kan nie goeie goed waardeer nie! Waar is daardie beterweters nou? Kom net een aand met ons saam -- sien en glo.

Ons kom weer, Citrusdal en Clanwilliam. Ons sal die Hantam -- „die skoonste plek op aard" -- nie vergeet nie.

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NEWBERY AND CALDECOTT MEDAL AWARDS FOR 1959

For the first time in its thirty-eight years of existence the NEWBERY MEDAL, awarded annually for the book judged by the American Library Association to be "the most distinguished contribution to American Literature for Children" has gone to a former winner. Joseph Krumgold received it for his book "Onion John". He won the medal in 1954 for his "... and now Migel."

One of the Cape Town booksellers had the book "Onion John" specially flown over for us from the States, it has been read by the children's librarian and will be ordered in quantity with our next book order. A review of it will appear in the Journal when the title is put into the accession list.

The American Library Association awarded the CALDECOTT MEDAL, for the most outstanding American picture book of 1959, to Marie Hall Ets, illustrator and co-editor, with Aurora Labastida, of "Nine Days to Christmas." This book will also be in the libraries shortly. The presentation to the winners of these two awards will be made on June, 21st 1960 at the Children's Book Awards banquet held at Montreal where the American Library Association and the Canadian Library Association are holding a joint annual conference this year.

NEWS *From the Regions*

UPINGTON:

Soos n tipiese Boesmanlandse gewassie, klein op die grond met wortels wat wyd en diep strek, was die vergelyking wat deur Mnr. Fourie, Senior Bibliotekaris, gemaak is in verband met die Biblioteek op Kenhardt. Mnr. Fourie het die biblioteek offisieel geopen tydens n dinee op Woensdagaand 27 April. By hierdie geleentheid was dit gepas dat die opening op eg Kaapse manier gepaard gegaan het met n glasie, want het die eerste vrye biblioteek dan nie tot stand gekom deur n belasting wat op wyn gehef was nie?

Op Kenhardt bestaan die Openbare Biblioteek reeds sedert 1897. Uit die staanspoor het die verskillende komitees dit moeilik gevind om n gebou en n bibliotekaris te vind. n Baie liberale beleid vir daardie tyd was gevolg, nl. dat die biblioteek vir soveel dae en soveel ure sal oop wees as moontlik - selfs op Sondae is diens gegee - en die publiek sal vrye toegang hê tot die rakke, maar geleidelik het hierdie diens gekrimp.

Die boekevoorraad was ingedeel in drie groepe: "Foreign Corner, Cosmopolitan Corner and Presentation Corner". Die boeke was aangekoop uit die subskripsiegelde en geld verkry deur die verkoop van tydskrifte, wat gewoonlik deur lede van die Biblioteekkomitee teruggekoop was. Die goeie boekvoorraad wat daar in die biblioteek is, getuig van bekwame boekkeuringskomitee. Die Biblioteek is ook in besit van baie waardevolle Africana.

n Groot probleem was die vind van n geskikte bibliotekaris. Op een stadium het elke lid sy sleutel ontvang en kon dan die Biblioteek na willekeur besoek. Later het daar egter n einde gekom aan hierdie praktyk.

Aan die einde van 1958 het die komitee n deputasie afgevaardig na die Stadsraad en in September 1959 het hulle aangesluit by die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens. Met die opening op 27 April is n langverwagte ideaal van die Kenhardt-gemeenskap dus verwesenlik. Nou het hulle die versekering van n goeie Biblioteekdiens.

- J.W.

BARRINGTON:

In die verlede was Barrington een van die blanke biblioteekdepots waar ek hoorbaar gebrom het. Nou ja, miskien het ek rede gehad, want die boeke is in n kas op die skool se stoep gehou.

Met my jongste besoek het daar egter vir my n verrassing gewag. Eers is ons verduidelik dat die biblioteek nou nie meer by die skool is nie. Toe is aan ons n netjiese opslaankamer gewys.

Trots het mej. A. Fourie, die bibliotekaresse, ons binne gelei. Natuurlik het sy rede hiervoor gehad want dit is werklik n poging wat n mens se hoogste lof verdien.

Vir ander depots wat moontlik ook so n ideaal koester, verstrek ek graag die volgende inligting.

Mej. Fourie het met haar kenmerkende ywer n funksie gereël. Hiermee is £18 ingesamel. Hierna het mej. Fourie die bedrag wat hierbenewens nodig sal wees, gewaarborg. Mnre. M.J. Groenewald en Pieter Heyns het dadelik ingespring en aan die oprigting van die nuwe biblioteekdepot begin werk.

Ook met die harde arbeid was mej. Fourie n gewillige helper. Sy het byvoorbeeld die planke gesaag. Om haar geesdrif te beklemtoon, kan ek net verduidelik dat, alhoewel sy met ses maande verlof was, het sy nie vertrek voordat alles afgehandel is nie.

Dus - almal wat sulke planne het, - die resep is soos volg: Omtrent dertig pond, n mejuffrou Fourie en gewillige helpers!

A.P.R.

EAST LONDON:

After being closed for about eight months, the Keiskama Hoek Library re-opened under the Provincial Library Scheme on Friday, 22nd April, 1960, at 5 p.m.

In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, the opening speech was delivered to a representative gathering by Dr. W. Milne Murray, and the door was officially opened by Mrs. Murray, who has given invaluable service to the library for many years.

Dr. Murray welcomed all who were present, expressing the hope that all the residents in the area would enjoy much happy reading and derive great benefit from it. He went on to say that as far as he could ascertain, the Keiskama Hoek Library was started about sixty years ago with a few hundred books. About forty years later it was promoted to the present building which was originally a school, and now it had blossomed forth as a Free Provincial Library. Before the change over the average number of subscribers was twenty, but it was the hope of all that this number would soon rise to one hundred. He went on to say that we could not overestimate the value of good books as a source of education and enjoyment. The Municipal Council was to be thanked for its part in financing the scheme and so making it possible to have such a fine, beautifully-painted building in which to house the books. In closing Dr. Murray thanked the Regional Librarian (and his assistant,) for their co-operation and helpfulness. In two days they had turned an empty building into a live library.

In replying, Mr. Cornelissen spoke about the first free Library Scheme set up in this country by Lord Charles Somerset, and how after his death the scheme faded out, the

responsibility falling onto the shoulders of the local committees who then carried on the work. He congratulated the members of the old committee on the fine selection of books they had gathered throughout the years and assured his listeners that within six months the full quota of new books would be made available. He spoke of the many advantages derived from the Scheme, making mention of other facilities that would be available when we had the necessary accommodation. After explaining the working of the library he thanked Dr. Murray for his kind words and for the hospitality extended to him and Mr. Barton.

Dr. Murray then called on the Rev. J. McCracken to envoke the blessing of the Most High on the work of the library.

All present were invited to the local hotel for tea as guests of the Mayor, Mr. Ballantine.

In the evening Mr. Cornelissen showed a number of films at a public gathering, which were much appreciated, and this brought to a close a memorable day for the residents of Keiskama Hoek.

H.L. McCracken
Librarian

PERSONALIA

+ IN MEMORIAM +

Mnr. Th. Friis, Direkteur van Biblioteekdienste se vader is op 13 Mei oorlede. Hiermee betuig die Kaapse Bibliotekaris, saam met al die lede van die Diens, ons meegevoel.

\+ + +

Mnr. B. Heydenrych het oorgeneem in die pos van Mnr. F.E. Leygonie. Welkom en stywe lyne!

Mej. J. te Groen is na lang afwesigheid weer terug agter die lessenaar. Lekker werk, juffrou!

Mnr. H.J. Uys, wat voorheen ook aan die Biblioteekdiens verbonde was, is terug. Welkom, en n aangename dienstyd.

Mej. June McGee het besluit om haar van te verander na Pringuer. Die ou se naam is Ronnie.

Mej. Shirley Clarke wat vanaf begin 1957 reeds in Kimberley Naslaan werk het haar verloof aan Mnr. Peet Strauss, n jong boer van Koffiefontein.

Mej. M.M. Swanepoel het op 16 April in die huwelik getree met Mnr. Boet Eilers.

VAN ALLES EN ALMAL

CITY LIBRARIES MAY GET PLAY READINGS

Mr. L. van der Merwe, Cape Regional Manager of the National Theatre Organization, has suggested to the Cape Town City Council that a scheme of "acted readings" of plays, which has proved a success in provincial libraries, be extended to include city libraries.

The aim of the scheme is to make the wide field of dramatic literature better known to the reading public, and to stimulate discussion after the acted readings.

To serve both the European and non-European communities it is suggested that the scheme, which is supported by the City Librarian, Mr. B.G. Hood, be first tried out in the municipal libraries at Wynberg, Long Street and Kewtown.

The proposal will be considered to-day by the General Purposes Committee of the Council.

Cape Times, 12/5/60.

4,000 READ 36,000 BOOKS A MONTH

The 4,000 members of the Queenstown Public Library are now reading between them an average of 36,000 books a month.

The increased popularity of the Queenstown Library is reflected in figures made available, and the huge increases in membership and circulation have only been brought about by the fact that last year this library joined the Provincial Library Service.

Since the change-over, the number of books on the shelves has increased from 47,000 to 70,000. There are books of all types by all the famous- and unknown- writers, and the Queenstown Library can now boast one of the finest collections in the Eastern Cape.

PHENOMENAL

The rise in membership- which can be attributed mainly to the fact that the library is now free - has been phenomenal. Before the re-opening last year the library had only 450 members, including juniors. The adult members now total 2,626 and the junior members 1,374.

To show how these figures have risen, compare those above with figures for October of last year:

Adult members 2,035
Junior members 1,245

New books pour into the library regularly. They come at a rate of about 400 a month.

DELAY

It was pointed out, however, that there is sometimes a delay in getting the books "hot from the presses", as they have to be sorted, wrapped in special covers and numbered in Cape Town before being distributed.

There is a steady trickle of new Afrikaans books coming into the library although this is slow because of the present shortage of Afrikaans writers.

In the children's section of the library, it is interesting to note that as many books in Afrikaans are read as those written in English.

In the adult section, however, the number of Afrikaans books read are not as numerous as those written by English-speaking authors.

(Queenstown Daily Representative)

BOEKBESPREKINGS/BOOK REVIEWS

VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

BOERNEEF: *Teen die helling.* Nasionale Boekhandel, 1957.

In hierdie versameling vertellings en gediggies aan die einde, het ons die rypste prosa wat Boerneef tot dusver gelewer het. Opperman het aan Boerneef hierdie volgende vers opgedra:

Ek dank jou Boerneef vir jou menslike relaas,
van stedelinge in n stad misplaas.
Wat anders is die lewe as n hunkering
verby die stoflike na n Boplaas?

Daar is die beswaar ingebring dat Boerneef se werk eintlik te lokaal beperk bly om aan hierdie hoë lof te voldoen. Daar sou dan in sy werk geen verwysings wees na die hoër Boplaas as maar net die een van sy jeugherinneringe nie.

In hierdie werk kry ons dit wel. Let op die verhaal van die uil. Ook op die titelverhaal van die bundel. Hier kry ons vir die eerste keer in die werk van Boerneef iets meer as die lokale, die beperkte. Dit skyn in n wyer lig.

Die gediggies aan die einde van die bundel het eienaardig aangedoen by die verskyning daarvan. Dit is egter maar die voorsmaak van wat hy later in sy twee digbundels gegee het en moet as sodanig aanvaar word.

Hierdie bundel is n genot om te lees. Dit is nie meer jeugherinneringe nie -- dit het iets meer geword -- iets van die mens in sy ewige verband, in sy ewige verlange bygekry.

CALEF, Noël: *13 Grade Celsius.* Human en Rousseau, 1960.

Hierdie eerste vertaling in die reeks Billik-boeke wat die uitgewers beoog is uit Frans vertaal. Slim aanmekaargesit, alhoewel n mens darem die gehalte nie heeltemal met Agatha Christie kan vergelyk nie. U moet in elk geval seker maak dat u nie mislei word deur daardie voetbal, wat die reisiger op die trein by hom het nie. Hy is geen voetbalspeler nie en daardie voetbal skop n netjiese klomp stof in jou oë.

Die vertaling is goed. Hier en daar kom iets voor wat n mens herken as nie tipies Afrikaans nie, maar hierin het die uitgewers juis die voortou geneem. Ons lesende publiek moet juis gewoond gemaak word aan die onbekende ook in Afrikaans. Hulle is bereid om dit in Engels te lees.

n Lekker speurverhaal. Vir oud en jonk, veral vir albei.

MIKRO: *Môre is dit Nuwemaan.* Nasionale Boekhandel, 1959.

Mikro is nog altyd bekend as iemand wat n hele klomp karakters gelyk kan hanteer. In hierdie geval is dit n hele gemeenskap, wat skielik bedreig word. Wat sal hul reaksies wees? Hoe gaan hulle op die

gemeenskaplike gevaar reageer? Elkeen op sy eie manier. Hierin juis is Mikro se krag as prosaskrywer geleë. Miskien kan die beswaar ingebring word dat hy die karakters te veel vereenvoudig en dat hy op sy beste is wanneer hy van die eenvoudige mense van Gonnakolk skryf. Nogtans bly die boek interessant. Dit is een van die boeke wat op die rand geleë is: dit is nie goeie letterkunde nie, maar dit is baie hoogstaande ontspanningslektuur. Miskien kan party mense self andersom redeneer.

Selfs kinders mag hierdie boek geniet, maar ek dink n volwassene sal meer daaruit kry.

- A. H. D. V.

FICTION

BARLOW, James *Patriots.* Hamilton, 1960.

Dramatic novel about a young man who fought in Korea, and found himself quite unable to adjust to civilian life, on his return to England. He is jailed for assualting someone who insulted him, suffers greatly while serving his sentence, because of his refusal to crawl to the guards, and after his release commits a robbery for which he is again arrested. An adventure-thriller, detective-psychological novel rolled into one, it is tough but real.

BARRETT, William E. *Empty shrine.* Heinemann, 1960.

A well-written and rather unusual novel about a vision of the Virgin Mary seen by a little girl of eight. The second half of the book describes her French Canadian village fifteen years later when it is visited by a curious journalist. The story has charm, piety and romance, and should be enjoyed by a wide range of readers.

- J. A.

CANNING, Victor *Burning eye.* Hodder, 1960.

A very readable thriller set on the coast of Italian Somaliland. The "burning eye" deals with the discovery of oil in that territory. A lively story full of action and suspense, and situations which are not too implausible.

- M. R.

PATCHETT, Mary *Proud eagles.* Heinemann, 1960.

In this novel the story is slender, and serves only as background to the main characters, the wedgetail eagles of Australia. It tells of Lanny, a small club-footed boy who fiercely loves his proud frowning-eyed eagles on his father's farm, and spends all his spare time watching their nest-building, the rearing of their young, their hunting, and so on. A bush fire gives Lanny the opportunity to rear a young eagle of his own, and we share his anxiety when the bird soars out over neighbouring farms where poisoned traps await the eagles, his patient training of the bird, his sense of loneliness when finally the eagle takes

a mate. Here is some of the best writing about wild-life that I have come across for some time.

- J. te G.

SLESAR, Henry *Grey flannel shroud.* Deutsch, 1960.

Active, clever detective thriller, set amongst advertising executives in New York. Atmosphere is authentic, characters crisp and likeable, and the climax is exciting.

- J. A.

NON-FICTION

BJERRE, Jens *Kalahari.* Joseph, 1960.

Translated from the Danish, this is quite an interesting book with excellent photographs, some in colour, about the recent Danish expedition into the Kalahari and towards the Kaokoveld. Its object was to make films of the Bushmen and wild life, and to collect material for Danish museums. Francois Krige accompanied the expedition as artist. The author deals, though not deeply, with Bushman folk lore, customs, methods of hunting, and family life.

572.96819 BJE

- H.L.

ASHER, Richard *Nerves explained.* Faber, 1957

A clear, simple book which describes the different nervous illnesses, and gives explanations of their causes. It gives hints, but not treatments, for their prevention and cure. The whole of this well-set-out work makes for a better understanding of the much-misused word "nerves".

616.8 ASH

- D.J.

WESTROPP, Celia *Health and happiness in old age.* Methuen, 1960.

Written by two doctors who spent five years with the Nuffield Mental Health Research Team in the Geriatric Unit of Oxford Hospitals. It is intended for the lay public who have the problem of looking after aged relatives or friends. It is sensible, practical, and dispels some long-held fallacies, and reassures on many points which may perplex long-suffering relatives. The four sections are Changes which occur with age, General care of the elderly, Common ailments of old age, and Preparing for old age.

618.97 WES

- L.L.

WHITCOMB, Helen & John *Strictly for Secretaries.* Hurst, 1959.

This is an excellent little book and would be a great help to the young woman who is considering a secretarial career. It is written in a light vein and is packed with useful information for the young girl who has just left school or secretarial college and who is anxious not to do anything wrong in setting about getting her first job; in the application, the interview and to guide her along the whole way until she is an efficient and

experienced secretary.

651.3741
- A.W.

TAYLOR, Gladys *Little Infanta.* Phoenix, 1960.

A very interesting book about the life and times of the little known princess, Margareta Teresa of Spain, daughter of Philip IV. The author reveals the practices of the strictest and most magnificent court of the Seventeenth Century, and the book centers around the pretty little princess known to us mainly through the sensitive paintings of the court painter Velasquez. We read also the whole history of the decline of the Hapsburg family, brought about by the astonishing degrees of inter-marriage, arranged for the purpose of gaining power for Spain. A worthwhile book revealing the declining power of the Spanish royal family and the rising power of its enemy, Louis XIV of France.

920 MAR
- E.J.

JEUGLEKTUUR/JUVENILE LITERATURE

FICTION:

BOSCO, Henri *Barboche;* trans. by Gerard Hopkins; illus. by Lynton Lamb. Oxford University Press, 1959.

This is the third book in the trilogy of stories about Pascalet and his eccentric but endearing Aunt Martine, of which each volume can also be read independantly. In "The boy and the river" the author tells us of the magical week Pascalet spent in an old boat on the inland waterways of France. In the sequel, called "The fox in the island", we read about the tranquil life of the people on that French farm until the calm is suddenly shattered by the mysterious appearance of a white fox. The present volume tells of Aunt Martine, who, with the boy Pascalet, sets out to visit the scenes of her childhood. The old farmdog, Barboche, follows them uninvited and though he is chased back again and again, he is there all through the story and plays a leading part in it. The journey is strange and enchanting, full of dreams, fears, beauty, happiness and sorrow. Very little happens in actual fact, the book is made up mainly of sensitive descriptions of the countryside and of thoughts and feelings. Aunt Martine sees everything as she remembers it from her childhood, whilst it is all is new to Pascalet. It is a sensitive but slow moving book with a lot of reading matter. Though there might not be an overwhelming number of readers for it, those who do tackle it will be well rewarded. Strongly recommended for older children. The book has been honoured in France with the award of the Grand Prix de la literature pour les jeunes.

- B.L.

KALASHNIKOFF, Nicholas *Toyon, a dog of the North and his people.* World's Work, 1959.

The author travelled from Central Russia to Northern Siberia as a political exile. On the way, he and his Cossack guards stopped at the home of a wealthy man where he was impressed and astonished by the reverence and honour bestowed upon an old and rheumatic dog. Then he came to know the amazing and beautiful tale of Toyon, a dog of superior courage, intelligence and rare qualities.

Toyon, the son of a famous hunting dog, was born in a raging blizzard and his survival was almost a miracle. His old master died and the puppy, as well as the old man's grandson, were taken into custody by Guran, a poor man. Strangely enough, everything changed after the dog's arrival. From the time Guran and the dog became hunting partners, Guran's luck changed and he became a wealthy and respected man. No wonder then that Toyon was held as a benefactor and bearer of a good spirit by the people who loved and cherished him.

To Guran, the dog was almost a human being and a personal friend. Toyon saved his life once, as well as the lives of other members of the family and, indeed, was crippled through saving Guran's adopted son from drowning in ice cold water.

This is a beautiful dog story, written with tenderness and humanity. It gives a picture of the people of the cold Siberian landscape and their struggle for survival. It is a thick book with a lot of reading but animal lovers amongst older children will be well rewarded by reading this gripping tale. Awarded the German Children's Book Prize for 1958.

- L.P.

LYNCH, Patricia *Jinny the Changeling.* Dent, 1959.

Against the background of a quiet Irish village and the belief in the mysterious existence of little creatures out of an imaginary world, the author has told this family story.

Conn Clery decides to go harvesting in England. On the day of his departure his daughter, Kathy, finds a baby by the roadside. Conn mysteriously disappears and as months go by without word from him, the family manage to keep going only through the understanding and kindness of the neighbours. They ascribe their good luck to the presence of the baby, Jinny.

After some time Conn returns home and tells them about his strange adventures among the Good People. Jinny is also one of them and has to return to that world, but she chooses to remain a human being and to stay with the Clery family.

This is a story without excitement but with a strange appeal and an obscure beauty - a story in which the line between fact and fantasy becomes very faint. The author is able to convince the reader of the existence of the Good People and their influence on human beings, and her prose is most enjoyable. For

imaginative children of 12 years and older.

- L.P.

OGBURN, Charlton *Big Caesar.* Illus. by Joseph P. Krush. Heinemann, 1958.

Big Caesar is an old broken-down truck which Ronnie repairs very patiently until it is in working order again. Ronnie is still at school, and though much of the book is taken up by descriptions of the repair of the car, we also hear about his school and teacher. Then there is Millicent, with whom Ronnie makes a date and for whom he calls in his huge truck which is now in running order again. The relationship between the two young people is delicately handled. The book is suitable for older boys, but girls, who nowadays are often very technically minded, might also like to read it.

- B.L.

NON-FICTION:

BAXTER, Eric *The study book of water supply.* Illus. by Jack Townend. Bodley Head, 1959.

WARBURTON, Clifford *The study book of power.* Illus. by Dick Hart. Bodley Head, 1959.

The first book describes how the development of modern water supply and explains how water is collected, how it is purified and how it reaches the home. The study book of power shows how man gradually, after first using his own muscular strength, started to use animals to do his work. Later he used water power, steam, electricity and lastly atomic power. There are drawings on every page in both of these books and an index is added at the end of each. Both books will be found useful for themes and study purposes and through their many illustrations they will also be enjoyed by anyone interested in the subjects. For children of 11-13.

J 628.1
J 621

- B.L.

HILLSTEAD, Arthur F.C. *The young bird watchers.* Faber, 1959.

This introduction to bird study is written in such a warm companionable style that the reader enjoys the book for the story as well as for the interesting information on birds.

After a bad bout of pneumonia young Michael Ferraby spends his convalescence with an old friend of the family, Mr. Nesbitt, an ornithologist, whose home is in Devonshire. He grows to love country life and discovers a new world in the fascinating study of birds. Under the kindly tutorship of his older friend, Michael learns the main items to watch for in bird study, and how to make relevant notes about the numerous birds he sees.

Any young person interested in bird watching will find this a stimulating and very readable book, ably illustrated with photographs and line drawings. J 598.2

- A.I.M.

RUSH, Philip *Strange Stuarts (1603-1714).* Hutchinson, 1959.

The author writes about thirteen personalities who were well known in their day for diverse reasons, and who reflect the spirit of the age. Included in this miscellany are Captain John Smith, known to us as the friend of Pocahontas, the little Red Indian maid; John Felton, the Duke of Buckingham's assassin; Thomas Parr, who claimed to be 152 years old when he visited Charles I, and who had his portrait painted by Rubens at the age of one hundred and forty; and Claude Duval, the fashionable highwayman, who behaved so charmingly and courteously towards the people he robbed that women wept copiously at his death.

Young people of twelve and over interested in historical anecdotes and odd personalities will enjoy this book.

J 920

- A.I.M.

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